WEATHER REPORT. INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY .- For the Middle Atlantic States, increasing winds, mostfrom southeast; increasing cloudiness, ollowed by rain areas, stationary temperature, and stationary or lower pressure. For the South Atlantic and East Gulf states, increasing northeast winds, cloudy

and falling barometer. For the West Gulf States, light, variable vinds, mostly from the south; warmer, lear or partly cloudy weather, with staonary or lower-pressures. For Tennessee and the Obio Valley, outheasterly winds, increasing cloudiness

and rainy weather, stationary temperature,

and rain, stationary or lower temperature, and falling barometer. Cautionary signals continue at New Oreans, Mobile, St. Mark's, Key West, Jack-

sonville, Savannah, Tybee Island, Charleston, Smithville, Wilmington, Cape Lookut, Cape Hatterss, and Kitty Hawk. THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was clear, warm. and pleasant. At midnight it was cloudy nd threatening.

THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: 5 A. M., 62:

. M., 67; noon, 79; 3 P. M., 80; 6 P.

1., 78; midnight, 68. LOCAL MATTERS.

The Moffett Liquor-Registers. ORK OF THE COMMISSIONERS YESTERDAY-AN

ENCOURAGING EXHIBIT—SOME BIG ITEMS. The work of the Deputy Commissioners of he Revenue taking the state of the liquorargest saloons and chief retail dealers west malt; at another 556 alcoegistered 2,056 half-pints. The returns of Mr. Wilkins are highly encouraging to the friends of this law, and indicate that the aggregate amount for Richmond per annum will be greater than suggested by the calculation of yesterday.

Mr. Wilkes labored in the eastern part of ory, but in some instances there were susof the register the deputy turned the crank 50 or 100 times, and credited the dealer by make and unmake governors. the same. Most of the registers were found

-would pay \$1,700 per annum. rate, Mr. Johnson, the manufacturer, says: ndex (which was made by the American Meter Company of New York), some of the wheels working too close, and the result wrote to them, and in reply they stated the defective parts should be supplied with perfect ones.

that the same trouble exists with all that are ests of the Commonwealth. out of order. The talk about their regis ering too many drinks is a mistake. The State of Virginia is the only sufferer, as the defective ones have failed to register as many drinks as were sold.

I do not intend the State shall pay me for a single defective register, and whenever one proves defective it shall be supplied by a new one as soon as notice has been given. tructed the commissioners to notice careto see that they are in good condition. I have been so anxious to get them in every city, so as to test the efficiency of the law, that it was impossible to personally examine each one. And in the last three weeks I have made and put them up in at for my Richmond trip they would have been put up there.

I wrote to Mr. Taylor before the first hipment was made that the registers were put up so fast that perhaps some would prove defective, but if such was the case many in use in the short space of time than public improvements; that nearly all our

I have made some improvements, which, tamper with the register, and shall supply Richmond and the other cities as soon as

THE LIQUOR-REGISTER PATENT-RIGHT meeting of the Liquor-Dealers' Protective alleged patent infringement if General Field will agree not to proceed against the wise affected or lessened whether it be held ent to the proposition, and the liquor-dealrs no doubt will give their concurrence, so that the order may be entered on or before the 17th instant, when the cause is set for trial on its merits

lay laws are hereafter to be enforced, and that bar-rooms will be watched by the police given the statute forbidding persons from prosecute their work on Sunday.

ard O. Weeks and S. Hechinger, bankrupts, now in the hands of Register. Waterman, of Petersburg, be put in charge of Register

members will raise the question of the advisability of making nominations for the
liouse, they believing that a "free-for-all
race" will be calmly and

ment. It has been sanctioned by the Supreme
cutive and confirmed by the Supreme
cutive and confirmed by the Supreme
court, and has therefore passed beyond the
pale of debatable questions. Again I ask
why should not the debt be paid?

The funding act. Duting in the first per
shield her from the disgrace. Before such
shield her from the disgrace. Before such
official assessment of property, both per
sonal and real, was made through
out the State. In my annual message
of December of that year, in order that no
of December of that year, in order that no
be pursued by her. No doubt the matter will be calmly and

DA I STATE OF STATE O

RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 3, 1877.

VIRGINIA'S DEBT.

VOL. LII.

ITS ORIGIN, HISTORY, AND PRESENT STATUS EXPEAINED BY HON. G. C. WALKER.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LAST NIGHT-THE STATE.

The announcement that Hon. G. C. Walker would deliver an address on the subject of the State debt attracted a large number of the leading citizens and businessmen of Richmond to Association Hall last night.

About 8 o'clock Governor Walker, accompanied by Mr. E. O. Nölting, president E. Blankenship, chairman of the committee of the Chamber to make arrangements for the address, entered the hall and took seats upon the platform. The Governor was received with applause; and Mr. Blankenhip, calling the meeting to order, stated that the Chamber of Commerce had for some time considered the propriety of scmen of the State to deliver an address on the subject of the public debt, and concluded that there was no man in the State more familiar with the subject of such unusual generosity, especially or honestly represented. I recommended or better able to meet the requirements of the Chamber than Governor Walker. With this view he had been invited, and had acnight to carry out the wishes of the body. The speaker was then introduced by Mr. Blankenship, and said:

Mr. Chairman and Fellow-Citizens,-I egisters was continued but not concluded appear before you to-night in response esterday. Mr. Wilkins visited many of the to the invitation of the Chamber of Commerce to speak upon the subject of the of Twelfth street. He was in the best part public debt of Virginia. The compliment of his district. At one place there were of the invitation, extended to me as it was of one entire third of what was legally and 1,254 alcoholic and 11,133 malt drinks by the representative body of the great registered; at another 1,286 alcoholic commercial, monetary, and manufacturing new promises to pay at a much more disinterests of this the metropolitan city of and 6,826 malt. A bar-keeper the Commonwealth, I profoundly apprecion a cross street, near the centre of the city, ate. The vast importance of the subject to and registered 2,506 alcoholic drinks; a be discussed, the wide range of topics to eighbor had registered 2,025, while a re- be treated, in order to reach a clear and ail dealer, a well-known grocery firm, had comprehensive understanding of our ability and duty in the premises, renders the task I have undertaken one of no ordinary magni-

tude. Happily at this time there are no other great public questions to divide and distract the attention of the people of our State. A policy inaugurated by Virginia in 1869 ache city, where the population is sparse, complished not only peace and good gov-The general run of the registers is satisfac- ernment within our own borders, but, gradually widening and expanding its benefipicions of non-compliance with the law. cent influence, it has eventuated in bring-There were dealers-a few-who had regis- ing the same blessings to the entire countered only between 25 and 100. Wherever try. The Virginia policy of 1869 has bethey deemed it proper to test the accuracy come the presidential policy of 1877. Armed soldiers no longer overawe legislatures or

The political equality of the States has again become the recognized rule of action, and At the rate indicated above the largest the President confines himself to the strict, dealer mentioned-or at least his cus- and I believe conscientious, discharge of the high duties of his office. Peace, good or-In relation to the complaint frequently | der, and a growing fraternity of feeling, as heard that the liquor-registers are inaccu- there always must be of interest, everywhere prevail. As the natural result of The only trouble is in the gearing of the this happy condition of public affairs prosperity begins to revive-slowly, it is true, but nevertheless surely. Providence has blessed us with abundant crops; in fact, being the breaking of cogs. I immediately everything combines to inspire hope and confidence in our future. And yet just at this auspicious period, in the midst of all these happy surroundings and prospects, we find I came to Richmond Monday morning to one dark and sombre cloud lowering over examine the defective registers, and find our horizon, which imperils the best inter-

WHY SHOULD NOT THE DEBT BE PAID? Already has the State suffered untold millions of loss in capital, immigration, and enterprise by her equivocal position as to her indebtedness. The continued agitation of the subject, the uncertainty that surrounds it, the wild vagaries, ignorance, and misrepresentation which have more or less prevailed regarding it, have all tended to and so affirmed by the highest judicial triunsettle public confidence and seriously impede the progress and development of turn it to me at Culpeper. Every one in the State. It is time the question was setthe city of Richmond will at once be tested tled-withdrawn from the arena of politics court in the nation. and placed beyond the pale of controversy. But why should there be any controversy about our public debt? Was not the debt honestly, legally incurred, and did not the State receive full value for every bond she issued? If these questions be answered in the every city in the State except Staunton, and affirmative, as they surely must be, then

why should not this honest debt, honestly contracted, be honestly paid? No one de nies that the entire principal of our public debt was contracted prior to 1861, and that not one dollar has been added to it, either during or since the war, except the accu-I would correct it at once. I am satisfied mulations of unpaid interest. It is not disthe State has gained more by my putting so puted that the debt was contracted to aid she can possibly lose by any defective regis- railroads, canals, turnpikes, our splendid charitable institutions and magnificent university-yes, even the very monu-I think, will defy experts who may wish to ments which commemorate the virtues of our great dead and mighty past-were the cause as well as the result of our public the new parts can be manufactured with debt. To these great objects, which de-the improved register. debt. To these great objects, which de-veloped, enriched, and beautified the State and blessed all her people, and all of which we are now in the full enjoyment, was the CIT-MEETING OF LIQUOR-DEALERS .- A money applied which we borrowed and solemnly promised to repay with interest. Association will be held at Sauer's Hotel Why should it not be paid? Does the chathis evening. Colonel John B. Young, their racter, nativity, or position of the owners counsel, has proposed to Attorney-General of our debt enhance or diminish our just Field to dismiss the further prosecution of and equitable liability therefor? Our oblithe suit in the United States Court on the gation is to pay the debt to whomsoever may hold it, and its sacredness is in no bond given to indemnify Mr. Johnson for by foreigners or citizens, by bankers, damages caused by the late injunction. farmers, rich men, poor widows, or col-General Field, who, with Mr. Grimsley, was leges. Why, then, should it not be paid? counsel for Mr. Johnson, has given his as- THE LIABILITY OF THE STATE NOT DEBAT-ABLE.

Is it urged that because of the division of the State and the destruction of property by the war our obligations have been caucelled and our liability annulled? There have been men, I am sorry to say, bold enough to make even this preposterous proposition. The fundamental error of charge a Legislature with corruption, and this proposition, however, is that it has not ought not to be made except upon subnoted and furnished to the grand jury, so the slightest foundation in either public stantial proofs. It has been announced, that they may be summoned as witnesses. law, equity, or morals. Even if as an ori-It seems, also, that some attention is to be ginal proposition it were possessed of any merit, the action of every Legislature since who regard Saturday as the true Sabbath may close on that day and keep open or after the war (that of 1865-'66) recognized the 8th of March, 1870, I stated that if the politician. The real question is, Can we the liability of the State for the whole debt | real property of the State were assessed by authorizing the funding of all the past-ORDERED BACK TO RICHMOND.—Judge due interest upon the entire debt, The section, then, in my judgment, the total Hughes has directed that the cases of Rich- ond Legislature, that of 1866-67 (elected by the white people alone), provided for the payment of interest upon the whole principal of the debt; that of 1810-71 author-Atkins, of Richmond. The bankrupts and | ized the refunding of the debt, and those most of their creditors live here. In the of 1872-73, 1874-75, and 1876-77 provided case of Weeks a strong petition of creditors for the payment of interest on the debt, was presented asking that the change indi- both funded, and unfunded. Not only has our liability for the debt been affirmed by every Legislature assembled since the CITY CONSERVATIVE COMMITTEE .- At the war, but their action has been concurred in meeting of the City Conservative Committee to be held on Thursday night some ment. It has been sanctioned by the Ex-

Market Reports.—The heads of departments of the State Government are now endergoed in preparing their annual reports.

As nearly all of them will come before the Legislature at its next session for reelection they are very naturally desirous of making pleasing exhibits.

What the Creptores Done.

Has any action is taken.

What the Creptores Done.

Has any action been taken or suffered by hypothetical estimates, I specially called attention to the fact that are official assessment the public debt, the reduction of the assets of the State of them. But I use language to convey ideas, tention to the fact that are official assessment dispassionately, and from the results ascertion of the one of the payment of the public debt, the reduction of the assets of the State of them. But I use language to convey ideas, tention to the fact that are official assessment dispassionately, and from the results ascertion of the assets of the State of them. But I use language to convey ideas, not to concert them, as Talleyrand is said the tention to the fact that are official assessment. The leads of the same of the financial policy, the others being respectful deference that I shall expect by them. But I use language to convey ideas, and what are tention to the fact that are official assessment. The public debt, the reduction of the assets of the State of the payment of the public debt, the reduction of the assets of the State of the same application of the assets of the State of the same application of the assets of the State of the payment of the public debt, and what are tention to the fact that are official assessment dispassionately, and from the results ascertion to the correct data to not one of the payment of the public debt, and what are tention to the fact that are official assessment. It is application of the assets of the State of the same application of the assets of the State of the same ap

plainingly accepted. In 1866-'67 we prosettlement was had with West Virginia; and this, proposition they accepted after repeated efforts, that we could come to no settlement with West Virginia, we proposed to our creditors that if they would throw off one third of the debt, or remit it CAN MEET OUR LIABILITIES "WITHOUT to the tender mercies of West Virginia, years, that on their surrender to us of their TION "-READJUSTMENT A DELUSIVE old bonds we would issue to them a new PHANTOM-HONESTY THE ONLY HOPE OF | bond for two thirds of the amount due them, the interest upon which, when represented by matured coupons, should be a legal tender for all debts and demands, including taxes, due the State. As might bave been expected, this proposition or compromise was not readily accepted by the creditors.

> THE FUNDING BILL. The proposition became a law, known as the funding bill, on the 31st of March, 1871, attempts to stay its execution. Yet, under thirds of the creditors accepted it. One third declined to accept the compromise aldid so of one third of their just dues, and cepted, though tardily, what we voluntarily and for our own advantage tendered to They hold against us the same old them. nonest debt, honestly contracted prior to the "late onpleasantness," shorn, it is true, justly due them, and represented by our tant date, but all done at our voluntary re-

> quest and solicitation. Do we find in all this any justification for withholding from our creditors their honest dues, any palliation or excuse for the abuse and vituperation heaped upon the heads of these victims of our own injustice? Is it not a shame and a disgrace that there should be found in our State men who, to enhance their own petty personal aims and interests, are clamorous for the people to dishonor themselves by damning their benefactors. Let us understand each other clearly as we

> CAN WE INVALIDATE OUR DEBT? I have not thus far discussed in any espect our ability to pay, but rather the rate and distinct questions, which should erous conduct of our creditors. But one remains to be considered. Have we done anything ourselves which in any respect impeaches or lessens our liability for the debt? That would be a strange idea indeed that a debtor of his own motion, and without the assent of the creditor, by any other means than payment or bankruptcy could defeat his legal obligation to pay. And yet, unless this can be done, what is the meaning or sense of the outery against the now famous funding bill? Conceding all that has been urged against that bill to be true-which it is not-is our just liability for the debt lessened or shaken in the slightest degree? Was it not clearly within the competence of the Legislature to enact that bill into a law? And was not the law a voluntary tender of settlement by the State to her creditors? Unquestionably so, purity, integrity, and profound ability and knowledge of the law, is the peer of any

THE CHARGE OF FRUAD. It has been charged that the act was hastily and inconsiderately passed, and by improper means; but the charge is utterly baseless. In my second message to the Legislature, under date of the 8th of March, 1870, after giving a detailed statement of the assets and liabilities of the State, amongother things I recommended a reorganization of the State debt upon the general plan subsequently incorporated into the funding It was before the Legislature and the people for more than a year before it was acted upon. In my annual message of December following I again called attention to the subject. Some three months afterwards, according to my best recollection, by request of the chairmen of the Finance Committees of the Senate and House of Delegates respectively, I drafted a bill which was submitted to a joint meeting of both committees. After some two or three meetings the bill was amended and adopted, and the chairman of each committee was directed to report it to his house and press it to its passage. After some amendments to the third section by the Senate the bill passed the Legislature by a large majority. How can it be said that a measure which had virtually been before the people and the Legislature for thirteen months was hastily or inconsiderately passed? If the bill were corruptly passed it was done without my nowledge. Had I been informed that it had been passed by corrupt influences, or an Executive veto. Why did not these when the opportunity was afforded them at the next session of the Legislature, when a ganized to convict if they could establish the facts? It is a grave thing to lature acted upon false and erroneous estiaccording to the mandates of the Constituwould amount to a certain stated sum.

THE ASSESSMENTS UNFAIR. And now, after the lapse of more than seven years, with a knowledge based upon facts and personal inquiry, I emphatically affirm that the judgment then expressed was undoubtedly correct. The difficulty is and has been that neither that year nor since-

pay them but two thirds of the licenses' and An act for the assessment of and the holder is fully satisfied if the interwe thought we ought to pay until a port of government and free schools, and to better usually. What amount, then, is it without a murmur. Again, in 1871, finding, which to base your action upon the subject be answered only by ascertaining the total of future taxation."

THE FUNDING BILL A GOOD LAW. Now, recollect that this language was addressed to the Legislature some cight months after the estimate. I have just mentioned were laid before them, and nearly four months prior to their action upon the funding bill. As matter of fact, the assessments were completed, and all the facts in relation thereto, and to the resources of the State as officially ascertained by officers appointed for that purpose, were before the Legislature long be fore the passage of the funding act. If any member was ignorant of them his own indolence was the cause. What be comes of the charge, then, that the funding bill was passed by the Legislature upon erand remained in full force for nearly a full | roneous estimates in or ignorance of the reof the Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. R. twelve months—the subject of much sense sources of the Commonwealth? The acless and violent discussion and animadver- tual facts as officially ascertained were besion, together with many threats and some fore the Legislature, and on these, and these alone, they acted. Can it be that that all these circumstances, only about two Legislature was a body of knaves and fools? It must have been if the objections which have been urged against the funding together, while most of the other two thirds | bill are well founded. They have, howreluctantly. They considered ever, one consoling reflection, and that is curing the services of one of the promi- it the virtually giving up or away that their successors have never proved to be their superiors, either in wisdom, inmen holding valid claims against a tegrity, or patriotism, and that their conresponsible debter are not often guilty stituents have never been more faithfully when the payment of the balance is made the funding bill and framed it. I believed simply by a new promise to pay, running it was right and for the best interest of the over a greatly extended period of time. As State; and now, after listening to and concepted the invitation, and appeared to- matter of fact, our creditors did not ap- sidering all the objections that have been prove of the funding bill and are in no urged against it during the past six years, I wise responsible for its origin or enactment unbesitatingly pronounce it to be, in my into a law. A portion of them simply ac- judgment, one of the wisest and best laws to be found upon our statute-books.

> Really, in the light of reason and historic facts how utterly baseless do these objections to the funding act appear! Some, even sensible, people have objected to the funding of the past-due interest as provided by the act, but this objection is not tenable. When the State contracted this debt, borrowed the money, she promised to pay the amount with interest. The obligation to pay the interest was as solemn and binding as that to pay the principal. A failure to pay the one was as much a violation of our contract as the failure to meet the other. We failed to pay either, and as West Virginia had not as-

SOME OBJECTIONS ANSWERED.

would remit or forgive us of one third of or a total of \$33,757,077.55. In other words, application of these assets would largely the amount due and extend the payment of the war upon the funding act has cost the reduce the amount of the debt. It is the the remaining two thirds for thirty-four State the difference between the amount of opinion of the Second Auditor, from his long years we would, on their surrender of the the debt, as above stated, and the amount to experience and careful examination of the old bonds, give them our new bond for that amount; and, to assure them of our good faith and honest intention, we proposed liability to pay. They constitute two sepa- tificates or coupons when due should be a the subject—in all over \$14,000,000. A fine loss amounts to fully \$1,000,000. If this be ustice, the equity, and the legality of our that the interest represented by interest-cerlegal tender to the State for all debts and denever be confounded in discussing the sub-mands due her, including taxes. Was ject of our public debt. Our liability is there anything wrong about that? Is there one thing, while our ability to discharge that a man before me who would not think him- out that the debt is so large that we can to over \$28,000,000, the annual interest upon ficulties is to pay out. The true readjustliability is quite another. I have sought to self extremely fortunate if, when hard never pay it, and that therefore it must be which would be \$1,680,000. To this interest demonstrate, and hope with success, our pressed and unable to meet his liabilities, readjusted or scaled down, are themselves add the State and school expenses—say undoubted legal and equitable liability for he could induce his creditor to throw off the authors and cause of the very condition \$500,000 for the former and \$400,000 for the we followed in the footsteps of our fathers, one third and take a new note running for self and by the uniform meritorious and gen- a long period for the remaining two thirds of both principal and interest? And yet other query as to this branch of the subject | that is precisely what the State accomplished by the funding act. Really, a man who could object to this most favorable compro-

mise to us would object to Sovereign Grace unless it were extended to him without the asking. But the legal-tender feature of the coupons is absolutely outrageous and abominable, cries the genuine anti-funder, because, I suppose, it makes us pay our honest debts whether we will or no. Well, if men will not do right voluntarily they ought to be made to do right. That is one of the chief objects of laws and governments.

NO EXCUSE FOR OUR DEFAULT. If we intend to pay and do pay the inmatters it whether these coupons are a a failure. legal tender to the State or not? If we intend to pay but fail, then the office of one has taxes to pay. I have noticed these coraprise all that I have ever heard of being for the debt. Barring the form of the prodebt-honestly contracted prior to the war, in nowise increased except by our own default in the payment of the interest; but, on the contrary, actually decreased by the of West Virginia. Why should it not be paid? There is no excuse for our default either in law or equity. All the noise that has been raised about the bloated bondholder, the Shylock, and the like, is simply 'sound and fury, signifying nothing" as to the real merits of the case. The debt is an honest one-we owe it-why should not we pay it? Do I hear the answer. "Because we are not able"? Ah, I can listen to that answer with some degree of composure, because, if not false, it is a good and substantial reason for your failure to discharge your honest duty. Can it be true that all this hue-and-cry about the funding bill, the non-liability of the State for her debt in consequence of the late war, together with the unmeasured and unjust abuse of our innocent ereditors, are all a mere subterfuge to

cover up our inability to pay? Does it not rather demonstrate our indisposition to pay? THE HONEST AND MANLY COURSE. A man who really wants to pay but finds himself unable to do so is not apt to be boisthat it was in anywise tainted with fraud, terous, defiant, or abusive of his creditor. it is unnecessary for me to say that I would If the same zealous efforts had been put have stamped it with my condemnation by forth to pay the interest upon our debt as there have been to demonstrate how "not gentlemen who make the charge prove it to do it" our liabilities would have been promptly met at maturity and the credit of Virginia would to-day be second to no State committee was raised for that purpose, or- in the Union. There are men, however, good and true men, who are sincere in their opinions and honest in their actions, who believe that we are not able to meet the full interest upon our debt. Are their opinions well founded? This, after all, is the real question for discussion. All: the other objections to which I have alluded are mates; but the truth is the gentlemen utterly untenable and constitute the themselves commit a far greater error in mere "clap-trap" of the unconscionfor not paying. If we cannot, let us demonstrate the fact like any honest debtor by a fair exhibit of our assets, and then respectfully ask our creditors to accept of wuch a percentage of their claims against us as our assets show that we can pay. This is the only manly and houest course to purbow her head in abject humiliation and beg

pay the interest on the public debt, you will necessary for Virginia to annually raise to be enabled to obtain very correct data upon meet the interest on her debt? This can of the principal of the public debt. The principal of the debt of Virginia at the commencement of the war was, in round numbers, \$32,000,000. Whatever increase of the debt has since occurred, as I have already stated, consists of the accumulations of unpaid interest. On the 1st of July, 1871, the under the funding act, the total debt, including principal and unpaid interest, amounted to \$47,090,866.43. This debt, however, was subject to reduction by whatever amounts might be realized from the sale of the State's interest in public works. Nomi-State possessed an amount equal to or greater than the debt and interest. Many of these assets, however, were value-1870, that they were sufficient to realize in a | with it, nevertheless its principles and what-000, two thirds of which, or less than \$25,accomplish this object, and had not that law ceeding that which passed the funding act rate of taxation. and before its full execution I have no doubt the estimate would have been fully realized. But the law was repealed, and millions of the State's assets have since become absolutely worthless. This is one of the results of the war made upon the funding act.

THE AUTHORS OF OUR TROUBLE.

Even as late as January, 1873, in a communication addressed to the Senate, I demonstrated that the total of our debt might be reduced to \$26,000,000 by a proper application of our assets. In that same communication I proved how, with a proper as-sessment of property and the reduction of of \$2 per capita, we could carry on the not to do it" again triumphed. What on the 1st of July last at \$29,412,126.38, with esty is the best policy." proposed to our creditors that if they interest unpaid amounting to \$4,334,951.17, which it might have been reduced, or near-subject, that at least \$500,000 of the debt ly \$8,000,000, besides some \$6,000,000 of has been lost or destroyed, and consequently assets and many hundreds of thousands of will never be presented for payment. Other dollars wasted in legislative discussion of competent judges are of opinion that this exhibit, indeed, for a six years' struggle to so, with the action as to the assets, which I of things they so loudly deplore. WAR ON THE FUNDING BILL.

Is it urged by way of palliation that the enormous sum which I have stated as the cost of the war upon the funding act is too large because the assets lost were not worth the amount stated in State bonds, and that the debt could not have been reduced to \$26,000,000? How do you know that fact? Was an honest effort ever made to accomplish either? No; but, on the contrary, the very law which authorizes such an effort to be made was repealed before it could be fully executed. So far as it was permitted to be carried out it accomplished precisely and fully all the objects contemplated. Ah, no; it does not lie in the mouth of the man who prevented the test from being made to terest upon our debt when due, what now say that if made it would have proved

They repealed the funding act (so far as they could), together with the act authorizthese coupons will be to crystalize our ing the sale of the State's assets, and refused bunal of the State-a tribunal which for good intentions into better acts. In any or failed to reduce State expenses and to aspect they are a good thing, especially when provide for a constitutional assessment of property, and then charge the funding act objections to the funding act and they with all the ills they themselves have brought about. Oh, consistency, thou art urged against it-not only to show their utter | indeed a jewel! The wonder is that the groundlessness, but also to show that that reputation of the State has not been utterly act in nowise changes or lessens our liability bankrupted; and it would have been had it not been based upon the solid foundations mise to pay it, it is the same old. honest of a hundred years of honest and fair dealing. But let us beware of trifling with it further, lest "the silver chord be loosed and the golden bowl be broken." Am I asked what I mean by a constitutional assessment one third, for which we have remitted our of property? I answer: The Constitution creditors to the honesty and high integrity provides in substance that all property shall be assessed equally and at its true value.

that this mandate of the Constitution has

if any, than a third of its value. Where are cows assessed at over \$10, mules at over \$15, and horses at over \$40 a head; and how many are not assessed at all? great discrepancies occur in the assessment of real property. The poor lands of the State are probably assessed at about their nue for this fiscal year will exceed the Audifull value-sometimes above it-while the tor's estimates. In making those estimates good lands are rated at not much above half he did not take into account the increased their true value. Had I the time I could give you instances sufficient to verify this late law, nor the results of the experiment assertion. To-day the real property in the now being made under the new liquor law, State, taken as a whole, is not assessed much known as the "Moffett punch-bill," if any at above half its' real value, nor is If the confident anticipation of the friends there any equality of assessment. Lands of of these measures are but half realized our equal value are assessed in different counties | revenue for this year will exceed \$3,000,000, at different amounts, varying sometimes or, if we had no legislative session, over fully fifty per centum; and instances have \$120,000 more than would be required to occurred where they were not assessed at pay the interest on the principal of the debt all. In some instances farms divided by and State and school expenses. county lines have been assessed on one side | Now, fellow-citizens, I submit to you of the line at double the amount they are | candidly-forthis grave subject should only on the other, and that, too, where the lowest | be considered candidly, sincerely, earnestly, assessed lands were of equal or greater but dispassionately-does it not appear envalue than the highest. And I have known | tirely feasible, with our present system, of the sale of farm-lands at more than three subjects, and rate of taxation, to meet the times their assessed valuation. A gentle- full interest upon the principal of our pubman within the last four days stated to me lic debt and our other legitimate State liathat his homestead, situated in this congres- bilities? Suppose that we shall be unable sional district, which cost him and which to reduce the principal of our State debt he values at \$3,000, was assessed but for quite as low as I have estimated (although \$3,000. Go where you will in the State and I believe we shall), and that our State exyou will find these discrepancies and ine- penses should be a little more than I have qualities occurring. If the real property of estimated (although I am confident they fort. the State were assessed as near its value as ought not to be), still, admitting all this, we it is in the cities of Norfolk and Richmond have margin enoughfof revenue to accompay? If we can, then there is no excuse in the stand of over \$500,000,000, plish it if we succeed in lopping off unneinstead of \$243,000,000, as now. These incqualities work gross injustice to the people, exhibit the State in an unfortunate and detrimental light, and are in clear violation of fundamental law. Assess property equally, justly, and according to the Constitution. and thirty-five cents on the \$100 instead of fifty cents, as now, would be all the taxation of a stained public credit. terest in the subject save as a citizen and required, with our other resources, to terest in the subject save as a citizen and promptly meet all our liabilities. It would tax-payer, but before I would see this proud be not only a reduction of fifteen cents on old Commonwealth, rich in historic glory the \$100 in the rate of taxation, but it in fact, never—have we had a constitutional and blessed with unexampled resources, the \$100 in the rate of taxation, but it assessment of property. Recollect that how her head in abject humiliation and her would be making every dollar of property pay the same tax as every other dollar, and

interest due them, we offered to fund the | ditor, under the two acts approved June | have to provide for is simply the interest | And after this, in my judgment not exag same into bonds, which offer they uncomplainingly accepted. In 1866-'67 we proin relation to the assessment of taxes on sought after for permanent investments, that our financial condition has become truly deplorable? I am firmly of the opinion that accruing interest, that being all, accord-ing to the language of the law, that entitled An act imposing taxes for the sup-to run on indefinitely, the longer the fully carried out the principal of our debt would have been reduced to \$26,000,000 or less, the interest upon which would have been regularly paid, and without any increase of the rate of taxation. In fact, if the policy of drawing the support for our schools mainly from a capitation tax, which twice recommended to the Legislature, had also been adopted, taxation upon property might long ere this have been largely reduced:

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I have given this brief resume of the treat. date when the issue of new bonds began ment that policy has received and the results that have flown from it not in vindicaion of myself for having recommended it, but because it has been so misrepresented and misunderstood that more or less of prejudice prevails against it, and also because I desire to urge the opinion that the true nally of assets of this character; the solution of our financial problem may still be found in the readoption and faithful execution of this policy. While it is true that all of the good results originally anticipated less; but after a careful review of them all from it cannot now be realized because of I reached the conclusion, and so stated to the increase of the debt and the loss of assets the Legislature in the message of March 8. consequent upon the unwise interference short time \$10.000,000 or \$12,000,000 in ever of the substances has not been lost still State bonds, thus paying that amount of remain, and may be successfully acted upon. the debt and reducing the total to \$37,000,- With the prompt restoration and vigorous and faithful execution of it I can answer in 000,000, being our portion. A law was passed | the affirmative most emphatically the quesabout the same time of the funding act to tion. Can we meet our liabilities and protect than human if he voluntarily consented the honor and the credit of the State? Yes, been repealed by the next Legislature suc- and without any increase whatever in the

THE REMEDY PROPOSED.

Let the non-consol or peeler debt be converted into consol debt, thus placing all our creditors upon the same equal basis. Let whatever of assets we possess be at once applied to the liquidation of the principal of he debt. Let there be an equal and constitutional assessment of property and the reduction of State expenses to the lowest degree consistent with efficient administration, and the question now agitating the public mind will be solved and settled. All these are right. They are just and practicable. And surely the great object to be our State expenses to \$600,000, which might accomplished justifies at least a prompt and be safely done, together with a poll-tax thorough trial. We still have some valuable railroad stocks and bonds and real estate, State government efficiently and pay which should be sold and applied to the full interest upon the debt. But "how payment of the principal of the debt. Let the bonds in the sinking fund be cancelled, has been the result? Some six millions of and let the literary fund be left in abeyance our assets lost altogether (\$4,000,000 in the a few years until we become stronger. I am Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio railroad and an earnest advocate of universal education; \$2,014,000 in the Chesapeake and Ohio rail- but about the first education I would instil road) and the principal of our debt standing into the child's mind would be that "hon-This action as to these two funds and the

> latter, which is amply sumcient in our sent condition-and we have a total \$2,580,000, which it would be necessary to annually provide for. To this sum add whatever legislative expenses may be incurred, and you will have the sum total of our necessary annual expenditures. As to what the legislative expenses shall be rests with the people. In my opinion they have heretofore been at least three times greater ready and effectual remedy in their own slaughter of his brother. vice" and confer a lasting benefit upon what immigrant would settle among us themselves. Why should not this be done with such a stain upon our character? everywhere in the State? Why not strike directly at the real evils which afflict us instead of wasting our breath and soiling our

reputation upon imaginary ones?

Aside from these legislative expenses, as have shown, it will require annually 32,580,000 to pay the full interest upon the whole principal of our public debt and the Now, no one has the hardihood to assert expenses of our schools and State government. Now, the Auditor estimates the revebeen obeyed. Personal property, probably, mues of the State for the current year at is not on an average assessed at little more, \$2,700,000 in round numbers. If these estimates be realized it will be seen that we can pay full interest on our debt, together have \$120,000 left for legislative expensesfully twice as much as ought to be used. But it is more than probable that our revereceipts from the tax on railroads under a

> cessary legislative expenses. At least is it not worth an honest, earnest effort? If we succeed, what untold good will have been accomplished? If we fail, it can only be in part, and, having set ourselves right, can

> WHAT IS READJUSTMENT? In comparison with this fair, just, and equitable proposition how stands its com-petitor, readjustment? What does read-

> then consider as to what other course we

will pursue to escape the withering blight

justment mean? Do its advocates agree upon the series in which they use it? It assessment of property. Reconsect the dispersion of property. Reconsect the passessment of property. Reconsect the theorem and the seed in abject numbers and the seed in abject numbers and the passes of the forgiven of any portion of what she prevent the gross injustice which now prepared the following act. During the year 1870 and the funding act. During the year 1870 and official assessment of property, both personal and real was made through and real was made through and real was made through.

This is what a constitutional assessment of property, both personal and the property and the series of the work of THE SPEAKER'S POLICY.

passion, using no harsh language and treat—as any hands he could employ. At present ing those with whom I differ with the same the work is confined to ditching and throwment of a financial policy, the others being respectful deference that I shall expect of ing up the centre of the road.

then that of the event be fulfilled it are present

terest of the debt, or both, one fourth, one half, or out of existence altogether. The readjusters, so called, appear to be divided into two classes-" voluntary " and forcible." The former proposes to ask the creditors for a readjustment while the latter proposes to compel them to it. The one would make of the State a beggar, the other would exhibit her before the world as

ne square, six insertions ... Ine square, twelve insertion

matter in what mellifluous phrase it may be garnished. Well, gentlemen readjusters, how do you propose to accomplish the high purposes of your noble resolve, and what are your prospects of success? Let us look at the situation. According to a statement which I have from the Second Auditor the condition of the debt on the 1st of July last was as follows:

a robber. To ask a man to throw off or give

you a part of the debt you honestly owe him

is to beg of him a part of his substance; to

force him to do so is to rob him of it. There

is no escaping it—this is what it means, bo

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

CABH-INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

One square, two insertions.
One square, three insertions.

ented by tax-receivable con-1.146,429.00 npaid interest on non-consol

TRUE WAY OUT-PAY OUT. Now, the holder of the consol debt, having adjusted his debt once at our request by throwing off one third of what was due him, and being secure in the payment of the in-

terest accruing by means of the tax-receiv-

able coupons, would be either less or more to a further reduction in the amount due him. The voluntary readjuster would therefore fail with him; and if he of the "forcible" persuasion were to attempt his plan he would be simply butting his head against a rock of granite. The interest upon the consol debt must be paid; there is no escaping it, and it is worse than folly to attempt to delude the people with the notion that it can be avoided if they desire it. But as to the non-consol debt and the accrued interest thereon, that may be the subject of readjustment. But is there any human probability that the holders of these bonds, equally meritorious with the others, after throwing off one third of their debt will willingly consent to take less than the remaining two thirds? Of course not; and no sensible man entertains such an opinion. Here again the voluntary readjuster, will fail. Not so with the "forcible" readjuster. Here he can operate. This portion of the debt it is in the power of the State to scale down or readjust down one third, one half, or wipe it out altogether. So far as the question of power is concerned there can be no question. The State can repudiate all this debt or any part of it; and in principle the forcible deprivation by the State of any portion of the creditors' debt, either principal or interest, is just as much repudiation as the deprivation of the whole of it. Will she do it? Are the people of Virginia ready to take this terrible step-ready to repudiate their honest obligations-ready to cover themselves and their State with dishonor? For one, I say no-a thousand times no. I have shown that there was no necessity for it-that the present revenues of the State, increased as they may be without increasing the burthens upon property, are ample, with proper economy, to meet all her liabilities. The true way out of our difment is to readjust ourselves upon the line of honesty and good faith, from which, had would never have departed.

OUR ONLY HOPE.

Putting it upon the lowest ground-that of self-interest-and we cannot afford to repudiate. Public faith and private credit go hand in hand. You cannot destroy the one without blighting the other. States are but the aggregations of individuals. Governments, laws, and institutions, are but than was necessary. The sessions of the the expressions of popular opinion and Legislature have been too frequent and too sentiment. Hence they constitute a just long. The country is cursed with too much measure of the mental and moral staegislation. The great and prosperous State tus of the people. Honest people will of Georgia, I am informed, has provided in have honest government, while weak, ineffiher new Constitution for only biennial ses- cient, and dishonest governments are the sions of forty days each. Had we such a highest evidence of the demoralization and wise and beneficent provision in our Con- degradation of the people themselves. Let stitution our legislative expenses would the State of Virginia attempt the repudiaaverage about \$30,000 a year instead of tion of her honest debt, and every one of \$165,000, as now. These expenses are a her citizens will be branded as dishonest as great and crying evil, but the people hold a surely and indelibly as was Cain for the

hands. If, instead of supporting gentlemen | The only hope for the building up and for election to the Legislature pledged to development of the State largely depends disgrace them by wild and futile attempts to upon the influx of capital and population; scale down, readjust, or repudiate the hon- but how can we expect either if we do that est debt of the Commonwealth, they would which the moral sense of the world conselect only their best men, pledged to secure | demns? How can we expect the capitalist biennial sessions of not exceeding forty days to invest his money in a country where the each, they would do "the State some ser- people refuse to pay their honest debts? and

> THE BLIGHT OF REPUDIATION. Capital, always cautious and nervously sensitive, never seeks investment in the property or security of a people who betray a want of integrity either in their public or private capacity; and immigration never seeks a country where obligations are not scrupulously respected, and where property rights are not safe and secure. Repudiation would be a physical as well as a moral blight. Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Illinois are striking examples of this fact. Each attempted repudiation, or, what is the same in effect, refused to pay their honest public debts, and each suffered the consequences-loss of respect, loss of confidence, the obliteration of both public and private credit, and the absolute destruction of prosperity. But the moment hey made an honest effort and succeeded in restoring public credit, private credit and prosperity followed in its wake, and to-day they are three of the most prosperous States of the Union. All we need in Virginia today is an honest, earnest effort to do right The increase in the value of property and of prosperity which would follow a re-

> stored State credit would far more than compensate in dollars and cents whatever temporary sacrifice might be necessary to accomplish that object. Let us make the effort. The object is worthy and fast; the obligation to do so of the bighest moral character; respect for the past history of the State, for ourselves and our posterity demand it. The plighted faith of the Commonwealth must be maintained and her escutcheon kept untarnished, or we shall prove false to her tradi-

tions and unworthy sons of noble sires.

At the conclusion of the address, which was received with applause and courteous attention, a number of well-known gentlemen present went up to Governor Walker and congratulated him upon his happy ef-

MORTUARY .- Number of deaths last week, 39. Bright's disease carried off 1; cholerainfantum, 2; consumption, 6; convulsioninfantile, 1; debility, 1; diarrhea, 2: dropsy, 1; dysentery, 1; erysipelas, 2; fevertyphoid, 1; fracture, 1; gastro-enteritis, 1; heart-disease, 1: imperfect development, 1; inanition, 1; inflammation of brain, 1; liver-disease, 1; marasmus, 8; puerperal convulsions, 1; scrofula, 1; tabes mesenterica, 1; teething, 2; tonsilhtis, 1; unknown, 4; wound-homicidal, 1.

THE COUNTY ROADS .- Messrs! Normand Smith and John L. Grubbs, of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors, yesterday in-

THE RADWAY JUDGMENTS .- The probability is that Radway will compromise of the Mitchell judgments. Only a few dol-lars separate the parties now.

[FOR OTHER "LOCAL" SEE POURSE PAGE.]